

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Humphris et al.

**Application No.:** 10/564,598

**Confirmation No.:** 1836

**Filed:** May 18, 2006

**For:** PROBE FOR AN ATOMIC FORCE  
MICROSCOPE

**Group:** 2856

**Examiner:** Robert R. Raevis

**Our File:** SHP-PT099

**Date:** March 9, 2009

**REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply responds to the Office Action dated January 9, 2009 and is submitted within two months of the mailing date of the Office Action in order to receive expedited handling.

Please amend the application without prejudice or disclaimer as follows: